DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Alex Krayner on 6/5/08.

2.   The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 44

A method of protecting from modification computer apparatus comprising

a plurality of functional modules, wherein the computer apparatus contains or is

in communication with a trusted device adapted to respond to a user in a trusted

manner, the method comprising:

storing a module configuration of the computer apparatus providing an

identification of each functional module in the computer apparatus, wherein the

module configuration is stored on a smart card;

the trusted device performing a cryptographic identification process for

modules with a cryptographic identity to identify ~~them~~ said modules and thereby

determine an actual module configuration;

the trusted device comparing the actual module configuration against the

stored module configuration, wherein the trusted device is adapted to

communicate securely with the stored module configuration; and

the trusted device inhibiting function of the computer apparatus while the

actual module configuration does not satisfactorily match the stored module

configuration.

Claims 47-49 are canceled.

Claim 51

A method as claimed in claim 4~~8~~4, wherein a stored module configuration

is held by a remote module validation authority and the remote validation

authority provides a service allowing a replacement ~~security token~~ smart card to

be provided if a ~~security token~~ smart card is lost or stolen.

Claim 52

Computer apparatus adapted for protection against modification, the

computer apparatus comprising a plurality of functional modules, one of said

modules being a trusted device adapted to respond to a user in a trusted

manner, the computer apparatus having a module configuration providing an

identification of each functional module in the computer apparatus, wherein the

trusted device is adapted to compare a module configuration of the computer

apparatus against a stored module configuration by performing a cryptographic

identification process for modules with a cryptographic identity to determine an

actual module configuration and to compare the actual module configuration

against the stored module configuration, wherein function of the computer

apparatus is inhibited while the actual module configuration does not

satisfactorily match the stored module configuration, <u>wherein the stored module</u>

<u>configuration is stored on a smart card.</u>

Claim 57

A method of protecting from modification computer apparatus comprising

a plurality of functional modules by monitoring the configuration of functional

modules within the computer apparatus, the method comprising:

storing a module configuration of the computer apparatus <u>on a smart card</u>,

the module configuration being an identification of each functional module in the

computer apparatus as validly formed, on a security token removably attachable

to the computer apparatus; and

checking an actual module configuration against the stored module

configuration, ~~and inhibiting function of the computer apparatus if the actual~~

~~module configuration does not satisfactorily match the stored module~~

~~configuration;~~

wherein the computer apparatus contains or is in communication with a

trusted device adapted to respond to a user in a trusted manner and the trusted

device ~~is adapted to perform the step of inhibiting~~ inhibits function of the computer

apparatus if the actual module configuration does not satisfactorily match the

stored module configuration;

wheren the trusted device is adapted to communicate securely with the

smart card.

Claims 60-61 are canceled.

Claim 64

A method as claimed in claim 62, wherein the remote validation authority

provides a service allowing a replacement ~~security token~~ smart card to be

provided if a ~~security token~~ smart card is lost or stolen.

Allowable Subject Matter

3.   Claims 44-46, 50-53, 57-59, and 62-67 are allowed.

4.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to the protection of configuration of modules in

a computing apparatus. Today, most modules used in computing apparatus are

standardized and freely interchangeable, they lower the assembly cost and repair cost

for computer apparatus, however it is relatively easy for computer apparatus to be

reassembled from stolen modules. According to the invention, the configuration of

modules within a computer apparatus is protected and prevented of reuse of stolen

modules in a new configuration. The unique features of the invention are recited in

claims 44, 52 and 57. The closest prior arts fail to anticipate or render the above

limitations obvious.

5.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Minh Dieu Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-

3873.

        If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

        Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Minh Dieu Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2137